

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-19. (cancelled).

20. (new) An intervertebral disk prosthesis comprising:
a longitudinal, flexible member adapted to be wound in a spiral shape, and having an exterior end and an interior end;
wherein the width of the member decreases from a first point located between the ends to the interior end.

21. (new) The intervertebral disk prosthesis of claim 20, wherein the width of the member decreases continuously from the first point to the interior end.

22. (new) The intervertebral disk prosthesis of claim 20, wherein the width of the member decreases continuously from the first point to the exterior end.

23. (new) The intervertebral disk prosthesis of claim 20, wherein the width of the member decreases from a second point located between the first point and the exterior end toward the exterior end.

24. (new) The intervertebral disk prosthesis of claim 20, wherein when the member is spiral-wound, the member comprises substantially convex upper and lower surfaces.

25. (new) The intervertebral disk prosthesis of claim 20, wherein when the member is spiral-wound, the member is suitable for placement between adjacent vertebral bodies.

26. (new) The intervertebral disk prosthesis of claim 20, wherein when the member in a spiral-wound unloaded state, the intervertebral disk prosthesis further comprises a gap between a first spiral turn of the member and a second spiral turn of the member.

27. (new) The intervertebral disk prosthesis of claim 26, wherein the gap is at least about 0.4 mm wide.

28. (new) The intervertebral disk prosthesis of claim 26, wherein the gap is no more than about 1.0 mm wide.

29. (new) The intervertebral disk prosthesis of claim 20, wherein when the member is spiral-wound, the member comprises an upper surface having a surface area between about 250 mm² and about 750 mm².
30. (new) The intervertebral disk prosthesis of claim 20, wherein the member further comprises a hydrogel.
31. (new) The intervertebral disk prosthesis of claim 20, wherein the member is manufactured using an injection-molding process, and wherein the member further comprises an injection point positioned near the interior end.
32. (new) The intervertebral disk prosthesis of claim 31, wherein when the member is spiral-wound, the member further comprises an upper surface, and wherein the injection point is located in a recess in the upper surface.
33. (new) The intervertebral disk prosthesis of claim 20, wherein the member is radioopaque.
34. (new) The intervertebral disk prosthesis of claim 20, wherein the member further comprises radioopaque components.
35. (new) The intervertebral disk prosthesis according to claim 20, wherein the exterior end of the member is adapted to allow the member to be gripped by an insertion instrument.
36. (new) The intervertebral disk prosthesis according to claim 20, wherein the height of the member is larger at the interior end than at the exterior end.
37. (new) An intervertebral disk prosthesis comprising:
a longitudinal, flexible member adapted to be wound in a spiral shape, and having an exterior end and an interior end, and an injection point positioned near the interior end;
wherein the member is manufactured using an injection-molding process.